

ז'קב

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THE JEWISH GAILY



SHA'AR ZAHAV

FORWARD



ירושלים, מנורת הכנסת, JERUSALEM, KNESSETH MENORAH

Ritual Committee

The ritual committee has been meeting at least once every two weeks in the recent past, in a effort to compile a new mahzor for the High Holy Days. Using materials drawn from a variety of sources, we are hopeful that the finished product will provide the content for a group of services which will speak to the spiritual and religious needs of our congregants, and which will reflect our specific concerns as Jews and as homosexual persons.

We shall continue meeting every other Wednesday until the High Holiday mahzor is finished. At that time we shall begin a revision of the siddur, and will continue meeting on a bi-weekly basis until such time as that project is also completed.

We are always in need of input for these undertakings, and would very much appreciate any constructive assistance which you may be able to render. If you are interested in serving on this ritual committee, please contact Allen through the answering service.

While on the subject, the committee would like to repeat our request that, if you are interested in leading services in the future, or are interested in delivering the "sermon", please contact Allen about this as well. We have many openings available, and are anxious to increase our resource pool of individuals who can and will conduct our worship services.



✓Report

MEMBERSHIP

Like most new organizations, our first year found us without a formal membership structure. However, we have publically proclaimed with pride a "membership" in excess of 200 women and men. Certainly well over that many have at one time or another attended a Friday night service, High Holiday Service, Passover dinner, picnic or other social event.

Thanks to the diligence of many people, you are now able to affirm your commitment to the purposes and principles of this unique Synagogue.

The membership information pamphlet containing a membership application card will soon be mailed to you.

We hope that you will read it carefully and decide to formally affiliate yourself with Congregation Sha'ar Zahav as a due-paying member.

The upcoming High Holiday Services will, like last year, bring many new faces to the Synagogue. We welcome all members, prospective members and guests to our newly contemporized services arranged by our Ritual Committee. Share in the genuine warmth and kinship exhibited by the congregants as we observe the new year.

If you have not received the membership information pamphlet by September 15, 1978, please call or write the Synagogue or contact a member of the membership committee at Friday night services.

If you did not happen to be watching T.V. on Monday night, the 21st of August, you missed something really fantastic. I'm talking about the movie 'Matlovich v. The Air Force'. Of course the movie had a special meaning for me.

Watching the movie brought back many memories; long talks with family, friends and even a few Rabbi's, and the pain of losing an old friend because he could not understand. He would never know of my deep love for him.

I remember in early 1976 in the Yokosuka Japan P.X. picking up the far east edition of Time, and being slapped in the face by a statement in big, black letters on the cover: 'I am a homosexual'.

I ended up sneaking back to my ship with the Time under my coat and reading about Leonard Matlovich at three in the morning, in the W.C.

"Wow, this guy Matlovich is something else," I thought; "He's brave enough to fight back. What Chutzpah".

Little did I know that in less than two months I would be back in San Diego, to be discharged from the Navy only because I was gay. But I was lucky. I had someone to look up to, a roll model named Matlovich. Just knowing that I wasn't the "only one" gave me such pride. Gay pride. I wasn't a fag, I was gay. I wasn't a sissy, I was a man. A gay-Jewish man.

My mother once said to me, "It's bad enough these days to be Jewish, but gay too?"

Well, nobody said coming out of the closet was easy, but having someone to look up to and admire sure helped.

I know now that if I had had someone to talk to in high school, a positive roll model so to speak, life would have been much easier.

Thank you Leonard Matlovich for being my positive roll model, you helped make my coming out easier.

Talor

Hi,

I have a few things I'd like to share with you in this co-leader's space.

First, I'd like to welcome those of you who are new in Sha'ar Zahav and our mailing list. Second, after one month of getting our newsletter out myself, I'd like to joyfully welcome Ellis as the new editor of the Gaily Forward.

Finally, and most importantly, we have two very important full congregational meetings coming up before the High Holidays. On Friday, September 8, after an abbreviated service, we will have our semi-annual congregational meeting. It's our time, set aside, to take care of the business that needs full membership approval for the coming year. The Va'ad has a set of recommended by-laws to be voted on. There is the issue of our formal name (should it include the word gay or not).

There is the issue of membership and dues and this is the time for officers and committee chairs to get feedback on the direction the congregation has taken and wants to take in the coming year.

On Friday, September 22, we will have elections after services for the four officers of the synagogue, the two co-leaders, recorder and treasurer.

Please, if you care about Sha'ar Zahav, its continuance and its direction, make it a point to attend these two meetings. Only your input can make Sha'ar Zahav your synagogue.

Peter



flash!

Our tax exempt status has just been approved by the IRS. Furthermore, this status relates back to last December. Tax exempt status had already been approved of by the California Franchise Tax Board.

This means that any donations and contributions to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav are now tax deductible on both your Federal and State income tax returns. Contributions to Congregation Sha'ar Sahav in the form of cash, stocks, property, etc., will be most welcome and graciously accepted.



There will be two meetings in September for people who want to aid in the glorious future defeat of infamous Proposition 6, the Briggs Anti-Gay School-worker initiative. Thursday, September 7, and Thursday, September 21, at 1339 Mission San Francisco, 7:30 P.M. For more information, call the Bay Area Committee Against the Briggs Initiative office at 626-9482.

The Outreach Committee of Sha'ar Zahav was formed to further relationships with other congregations and organizations in the Jewish community, and with the community at large. Also to promote programs that would be beneficial to the congregation and to work toward the elimination of social injustice.

For the last two months and until the elections in November, we are concentrating our efforts on defeating Proposition 6. We feel that we have a special responsibility to reach out to the Jewish community, at the very least to neutralize any Jewish support for the Proposition and at the most, to encourage active Jewish opposition of this measure.

Toward this end we have written to every rabbi and many Jewish organizations in the Bay area, offering to meet individually or collectively with them. We hope to be able to speak to as many Jewish groups as possible, emphasizing the fact that Proposition 6 is a threat to civil liberties. We hope to be able to demonstrate to our Jewish sisters and brothers that they are as threatened by 6 as are gays. We must make the straight Jews understand that to be gay in a straight society has many parallels with being Jewish in a gentile environment. That which threatens the civil rights of gays may potentially threaten Jews who have always been understandably sensitive to civil liberty issues.

The Outreach Committee has been meeting on alternate Wednesdays "for the duration," and all are invited to meetings and to participate in the committee's work. Please see me or Sarah C. at services for details.

Daniel C.

Remember, that as you bicycle through life, keep your eyes on the road and not on the attractive scenery walking by.
Right Ron?

RUNNING

The first Sha'ar Zahav run was held August 20th at Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park.

The sun-drenched morning with the many quacking birds and chirping ducks provided a serene setting.

Unfortunately, the turn-out was something short of that for the Bay to Breakers Race, but that's easily attributable to lack of publicity.

You know, running is much like kissing your stubby-bearded zeda.....it may feel rotten while you're doing it, but you feel so good afterward.

The Sha'ar Zahav runners will meet again at the Stow Lake boat house in Golden Gate park on Sunday, September 24 at 10:00 A.M.

All are welcome and encouraged to run.

Come. Do it for your zeda.





COZUMEL, The Mexican Caribbean--

Having a wonderful time; glad I'm here! This is your Recorder writing from the balmy tropics, where I am enjoying a well-deserved vacation. (No wise-ass comments, that you!)

As I bask in the shade of a convenient coconut palm, appreciation to all of you for allowing me to serve as your Recorder. (I had hinted that the Congregation could show its gratitude by financing this trip, but our Treasurer and Finance Chair are so cheap, all they were willing to give me was a BART ticket to Daly City. One way!)

In any event, keeping the minutes of the Va'ad meetings was by far the easiest part of the job. All the wrangling and the endless Va'ad meetings were occasionally maddening, but we have now emerged on the brink of a new era. As you are reading this, the Congregation should have approved a new set of By-laws to guide us into the future and will be electing a new slate of officers to lead us in the New Year.

Barring unforeseen difficulties, we should also have been notified officially that our application for Federal tax-exempt status has been approved. Most importantly, we should soon adopt a new membership structure, I trust, which will provide the Congregation with a strong base for continued growth. With a more secure financial situation, we can look forward to trying to acquire a permanent home and offering increased activities and benefits to our membership.

It looks like one of those coconuts is about to plummet in this direction, so your Recorder is going to beat a strategic retreat into the surf. I look forward to seeing all of you at the High Holy Days and to working with the Congregation in the New Year. Meanwhile, I am spending the next few days working on a terrific new project: dedicating a piña colada to each and every one of you! Hasta Rosh Hashanah!

Rob

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept 1 Beginning of month Rosh Hodesh Elul
Evening Services. Weekly portion Re'eh, Deut.
11:26 - 16:17. Haftarah, Isaiah 66
- Sept 8 Evening Services. Weekly portion Shofetim,
Deut. 16:18 - 21:9. Haftarah, Isaiah 51:12
- 52:12
Congregational meeting at Dovre Hall to adopt
new by-laws and formal membership proposal.
- Sept 15 Evening Services. Weekly portion Ki Tetze,
Deut. 21:10 - 25:19. Haftarah, Isaiah 54:1
- 54:10
- Sept 22 Evening Services. Weekly portion Ki Tavo,
Deut. 26:1 - 29:8. Haftarah, Isaiah 60.
Congregational meeting at Dovre Hall to elect
officers.
- Sept 29 Evening Services. Weekly portion Nitzavim,
Deut. 29:9 - 30:20. Haftarah, Isaiah 61:10
- 63:9
- Oct 1 Erev Rosh Hashana. The beginning of the Jewish
New Year is also the beginning of the Ten
Days of Penitence, which end with Yom Kippur.
Sincere prayer and meditation help us to
experience the reality of God and to dedicate
ourselves anew to the establishment of God's
dominion on earth - the reign of freedom,
justice and peace.
Rosh Hashana evening services at 8:00 p.m. at
Dovre Hall.
- Oct 2 Rosh Hahsna morning services at 9:30 a.m. at
Dovre Hall.
- Oct 3 Rosh Hashana. (Note: Sha'ar Zahav observes
only the first day of Rosh Hashana)
- Oct 4 Fast of Gedaliah (commemorates the climax of
the disasters that befell the first Jewish
Commonwealth 586 B.C.E.)

Oct 6 Shabat Shuvah evening services. Weekly portion Vayelekh, Deut. 31. Haftarah, Hosea 14:2-10; Micah 7:18-20; Joel 2:15-27. Shavat Shuvah derives its name from the haftarah of that day which begins with the word Shuvah - "Return--," i.e. Repent

Oct 10 Erev Yom Kippur - Kol Nidre. Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) is a day of fasting and prayer when we strive to awaken the latent spiritual power in our souls so that it may become an effective and directing force in our daily conduct.

Yom Kippur evening services at 8:15 p.m. at Dovre Hall.

Oct 11 Yom Kippur: Yizkor and Memorial services at 9:30 a.m. at Dovre Hall and continue throughout the day.

All Services at Dovre Hall, 18th Street between Valencia and Guerrero Streets in San Francisco.

SHA'AR ZAHAV

THE CONGREGATION OF THE GOLDEN GATE Box 5640 San Francisco, Calif 94101
Tel: 626-3131

Reaching out to the Gay Community of the Bay Area